



# U. S. ARMY GARRISON, FRANCONIA



## "TEAM OF TEAMS"

### COMMANDER'S POLICY

**POLICY NUMBER:** 17

**DATE:** 1 October 2005

**SUBJECT:** Registration, Care, and Control of Domesticated Pets

1. **REFERENCE:** AR 40-905, Veterinary Health Services, 16 Aug 94
2. **PURPOSE:** To establish policy and procedures for possession of animals maintained on United States installations, on/off post housing, and leased housing areas within the USAG, Franconia area of responsibility (AOR).
3. **SCOPE:** This policy is applicable to all personnel and family members who maintain pets on military installations, government housing, and government controlled housing. This policy excludes the Military Working Dogs (MWD).
4. **GENERAL:** Installation residents have the right to be free from injury, disease, menace, noise, and waste caused by animals. To ensure mutual cooperation among all residents, measures are necessary to protect personnel from diseases and injuries due to pets and stray animals. Preventive measures include animal registration, prohibition of animal abandonment, disposal of deceased animals, and restrictions on the ownership and maintenance of animals. The privilege to maintain an animal is granted to residents dependent upon the owner's ability to adhere to their responsibilities. This privilege may be withdrawn if it constitutes a threat to the health or safety of personnel and/or nuisance, or when the owner fails to adhere to his/her responsibilities.
5. **POLICY:**
  - a. Domestic animals such as dogs, cats, and small caged animals such as birds, hamsters, guinea pigs, rabbits, and rats are authorized to be kept in on/off post housing, and leased government housing. Persons wishing to maintain other types of animals will first contact the veterinarian and the Garrison Commander. All animals will be adequately housed, fed, watered, and humanely treated. Animal abuse is defined as any act or omission whereby an animal's physical or psychological well-being is compromised unnecessarily.
  - b. All animals maintained by service members and DOD civilians will be registered with the Post Veterinary Treatment Facility (VTF) within 10 days of the animal's arrival in country, purchase or adoption.

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c. Within the German State of Bavaria, certain breeds of dogs, and dogs which are crossbred to these breeds, are considered illegal or dangerous. The identified dogs are required to be registered at the German Town Hall even if the service member is residing on base. Enclosure 1 specifically identifies these breeds and provides additional information on local registration with German authorities. U.S. service members living in Bavaria are required to comply with this German State of Bavaria law.

d. Animals that habitually bite, scratch, attack, or otherwise threaten people without provocation are a community health menace and will not be allowed in government housing or facilities. A severe incident is cause for removal of the offending animal, regardless of the number of incidents. Owners of animals will present their animal to VTF for a health examination within 24 hours of a bite incident. If the bite occurs on a weekend, the animal must be presented to a VTF during operating hours on the next duty day.

e. Farm animals (sheep, cattle, pigs, etc.) will not be maintained on the installation as pets. Horses may be maintained on the installation at established (equestrian) facilities.

f. All animals will be immunized against rabies on a yearly basis. Animals will be registered as a vaccinated animal and receive a rabies tag that will be worn by the animal at all times. Owners are responsible for maintaining current registration and immunizations. Failure to maintain current registration will result in loss of the privilege to maintain a pet.

g. Animal owners will not allow their animals to cause excessive or uncontrolled noise. Animals are not allowed to be placed on balconies unattended, housed, locked in storerooms, or in a spare room belonging to any apartment. Pets will not be tied to stair railings, pipes, shrubbery, and trees or kept in fenced playgrounds where small children may congregate.

h. Animal owners will not allow their pets to defecate on playgrounds or within the immediate vicinity of family housing. Animal owners are responsible for removing waste produced by their pets in these areas.

i. The feeding, protecting, and sheltering of abandoned animals that adversely affects public safety is strictly forbidden. A stray animal is defined as any domestic animal on the installation without restraint or control of an owner. Personnel who provide shelter or aid to stray animals subject themselves and the community to health and safety risks. Personnel should not approach stray or abandoned animal(s), located on the installation or in a housing area, should notify the Installation Management Office (IMO).

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j. Animals, except guide dogs for the physically impaired and MWDs will not be allowed in swimming pool areas, post exchange facilities, and other public service facilities. School systems, SAS, and CDCs, must register all animals with the veterinarian before allowing them inside the facilities. All dogs and cats must be current on vaccinations, a health certificate and have had a temperament test performed. All other animals must maintain a current health certificate and must be provided with safe, adequate housing and husbandry.

k. Animals will not be allowed to run loose. Owners may either restrain their animals with physical barriers, e.g., fence, physical restraints, leashes or leads, or by the owner's physical presence. Animals being exercised loose, without physical restraint, must be under voice command and within 20 meters of the owner. An owner must be at least ten years of age to exercise without using some form of physical restraint. Animals that run loose will be considered strays, and processed as abandoned animals. The construction and maintenance of physical barriers and kennels require written approval from the Garrison Commander.

l. The abandonment of domesticated pets is a violation of USAREUR Supplement to AR 40-905. Owners that abandon their pets are subject to action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), and are responsible for all costs incurred by the government in relation to the transfer, care, custody, and final disposition of the animal.

m. Special Requirements.

(1) The Regional Contracting Office (RCO) will arrange for the capture and care of abandoned or stray animals, and the disposal of animal remains. The RCO, advised by the local military veterinarian, will establish agreements with local German Tierheims or veterinarians who can provide those services.

(2) Copies of all agreements and contact phone numbers will be provided to each IMO supported by respective German Tierheims.

(3) Stray or abandoned animals will be reported to the IMO during normal duty hours. The IMO will maintain logs of time and incidents related to the notification of the German Tierheim to remove an animal. If an animal is turned over to the German Tierheim the owner is responsible for making all arrangements and all costs associated with the return of his/her animal.

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(4) Dead animals. Owners of dead animals may deliver them to their VTF or the local Tierkoerperbeseitigung (animal carcass disposal). The VTF or the Tierkoerperbeseitigung will charge the owner for disposal. Under no circumstances will animals be buried, as this violates German Law. Organizations performing installation post cleanup duties will notify the VTF for disposal instructions if dead animals are found on the installation.

5) Quarantine. The Post Veterinarian may quarantine animals that are suspected of carrying diseases transmittable to humans (i.e., rabies).

(6) Emergency Situations. In the event of extreme circumstances in which an animal becomes uncontrollable and is a menace to the safety and welfare of humans, the Military Police will be notified. Once notified and a determination is made that the animal is a threat to human life and limb, the Provost Marshal may authorize deadly force to be used against the animal to prevent injury to humans. Such incidents will be appropriately documented using established police report procedures.

(7) Complaints and improper control of pets will be processed through the Garrison IMO office.

(8) Garrison Commanders may authorize a sanitation onspection of any set of assigned quarters that is alleged, by written complaint, to not complying with the established sanitation standards and/or noncompliance with the care of domestic animals. Entry of the quarters will be with the presence of the sponsor or an adult family member unless immediate or nocontentious entry is required to prevent damage or destruction of government property.

6. This policy memo supersedes 98<sup>th</sup> ASG Policy memo 16-1, dtd 4 January 2005.

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Commanding